

MED. LIBRARY TO THE STONE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL. 1925.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit for your consideration my Annual Report, which, in accordance with the regulations of the Ministry of Health, is to be a Survey Report, and is to review the work of the last five years.

Natural and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area (in acres)	...	...	...	...	...	64,540
Population (1921)	...	...	...	...	...	14,470
Population (1925, estimated)	...	...	...	...	...	12,140
Number of Inhabited Houses (1921)	...	...	...	...	...	4,120
Number of Families or Separate Occupiers (1921)...	...	...	...	...	...	4,250
Assessable Value	...	...	...	...	...	£95,077
Sum represented by a 1d. rate	...	...	...	...	...	£388

The Area is residential, and Agriculture is practically the only industry.

Vital Statistics.

Births	{	Legitimate	...	...	Total	Male	Female
		...	...	...	216	111	105
		Illegitimate	...	...	11	4	7
Birth-rate ... 18·7 per 1000							
Deaths...		...	...	...	Total	Male	Female
		...	...	...	133	78	55
Death-rate ... 10·9 per 1000							
Deaths of women dying in, or in consequence of child-birth							
	{	From Sepsis	...	...	...	...	Nil
		Other causes	...	...	...	...	2
Deaths of Infants under one year of age							
	{	Legitimate	...	...	...	...	8
		Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	Nil
Infantile Death-rate per 1000 births ... 0·6							
Deaths from Measles (all ages)...							
	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)							
	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Deaths from Diarrhœa (under two)							
	...	...	...	...	...	...	1

General Provision of Health Services of the Area.

- (1) Hospitals provided or subsidized by the Local Authority or by the County Council: (a) **Tuberculosis.** Sanatoria are provided by the Staffs., Dudley, and Wolverhampton Joint Tuberculosis Committee; at Prestwood and Kinver for men, Groundslow and Yarnfield for women, and Himley for children.
 - (2 & 3) **Maternity and Children.** No special provision is made.
 - (4) **Fever.** The hospital is situated at Yarnfield, and is managed by the Stone Joint Hospital Board, consisting of members of the Stone Urban and Rural District Councils. There are 24 beds available for fever cases.
 - (5) **Small-pox.** The old fever hospital, situated at Yarnfield, is reserved for Small-pox cases, but has not been required.
 - (6) **General.** The North Staffs. Royal Infirmary at Stoke and the Staffs. General Infirmary at Stafford provide accommodation for urgent surgical and medical cases.
- Ambulance Facilities.** (a) The Stone Joint Hospital Board have recently provided a Motor Ambulance for infectious cases, to replace the old horse ambulance, and it has proved to be of great value in obtaining the prompt removal of patients to the hospital; (b) there are no ambulance facilities for non-infectious and accident cases.

Clinics and Treatment Centres.

Maternity and Child Welfare. Nil

Tuberculosis Dispensaries are held at Stone and Newcastle and are managed by the County Council's Tuberculosis Officer.

Venereal Disease Clinic is held at the North Staffs. Royal Infirmary.

Public Health Staff.

- (1) Medical Officer of Health (part time).
- (2) Two Sanitary Inspectors.
- (3) Health Visitors employed by the County Council and who are in most cases the District Nurses.

Professional Nursing in the Home.

Most of the villages have District Nurses who undertake, as far as possible, both the General and Maternity work.

The majority of the Nurses are provided by the County Nursing Association and are supported by subscriptions from the residents of the district in which they work.

Midwives.

There are about twenty regularly practising in the area.

Legislation in Force in the Area.

The following Adoptive Acts are in force :—

- (1) Infectious Disease Notification Act.
- (2) Infectious Disease Prevention Act.
- (3) Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1890 (as much of Part 3 as is applicable to Rural Areas).

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

Water Supply.

Eccleshall. During the last five years I have examined numerous samples of water from this district ; most of them were, in my opinion, polluted and unfit for domestic use. Recently, 6 samples taken during a dry period from wells supplying 6 of the better houses in Eccleshall have been submitted to the County Analyst, who reports that 5 of the samples are badly polluted with sewage and unfit for human use. His reports are appended.

It seems to me impossible that the inhabitants of Eccleshall can continue to drink this badly polluted water without sooner or later suffering from an epidemic of Typhoid Fever or other water-borne disease, and, in my opinion, steps should be immediately taken to provide the village with a pure water supply.

Acton & Butterson. The Water Supply to these villages remains unsatisfactory, but the cost of providing a better supply seems prohibitive.

Rivers and Streams.

The County Council are the Local Authority responsible for carrying out the provisions of the Rivers Pollution Act.

Drainage and Sewerage.

Cotes Heath. The open sewer has been piped and arrangements for regular flushing made, thus doing away with a very real nuisance.

Barlaston. Improvements in the treatment of the sewage have been made, but is still far from satisfactory.

Housing.

(1) General Housing Conditions in the Area.

In my opinion the housing conditions are fairly satisfactory.

(2) Overcrowding.

There is little overcrowding now. The Council have during the last few years erected 32 houses and 38 more are shortly to be built.

Statistics—year ended December 31st, 1925.

I. Unfit Dwelling Houses.

Inspection.

(1) Total number of houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	753
(2) Number of dwelling houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910	105
(3) Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	3
(4) Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	23

II. Remedy of Defects without service of formal notice.

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	12
--	----

III. Action under Statutory Powers.

A—Proceedings under Section 28 of the Housing and Town Planning, &c. Act, 1919.

(1) Number of houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	NIL
(2) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit—	
(a) by owners	NIL
(b) by Local Authority in default of owners	NIL
(3) Number of houses in respect of which closing orders became operative in pursuance of declaration by owners of intention to close	NIL

B—Proceedings under Public Health Acts.

(1) Number of houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	105
(2) Number of houses in which defects were remedied—	
(a) by owners	91
(b) by Local Authority in default of owners	NIL

C—Proceedings under Sections 17 and 18 of the Housing and Town Planning, &c. Act, 1909.

(1) Number of representations made with a view to the making of closing orders	3
(2) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which closing orders were made	3
(3) Number of houses in respect of which closing orders were determined, the dwelling houses having been made fit	NIL
(4) Number of houses in respect of which demolition orders were made	NIL
(5) Number of houses demolished in pursuance of demolition orders	NIL

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

A—Milk Supply.

The milk consumed is produced in the district and the general arrangements for its supply and distribution are satisfactory.

B—Meat Supply.

The two Sanitary Inspectors were appointed as Inspectors under the Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924, but as neither of them possess Meat Certificates and as also their time is fully occupied with their other duties, little meat inspection has been possible.

Slaughter Houses.

		1920		Jan. 1925		Dec. 1925
Registered	...	NIL	...	NIL	...	15
Licensed	...	NIL	...	NIL	...	NIL

Prevalence of and Control over Infectious Diseases.

Scarlet Fever. This disease has been prevalent throughout your district since 1920, the number of notifications being :—

1921	1922	1923	1924	1925	Total
20	25	22	94	59	220

The big figures of 1924 and 1925 were largely due to an epidemic of the disease in the Eccleshall district.

164 of the cases were treated in the Isolation Hospital and there were only a few 'return' cases.

Diphtheria. This disease has been both much less prevalent and less severe than in former years.

The number of cases notified were in

1921	1922	1923	1924	1925	Total
15	29	13	6	3	66

31 of these cases were treated at the Isolation Hospital.

Antitoxin is supplied free of cost by the Council.

Small-pox. No cases have occurred in the district and no vaccinations have been performed by the M.O.H. under the P.H. (Small-pox prevention) Regulations, 1917.

Pneumonia. Very few of the cases are notified.

Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) during 1925.

Disease	Total	Cases admitted to hospital	Deaths
Small-pox ...	NIL	NIL	NIL
Scarlet Fever ...	59	47	NIL
Diphtheria ...	3	3	NIL
Enteric Fever ...	NIL	NIL	NIL
Puerperal Fever ...	1	NIL	NIL
Pneumonia ...	7	NIL	6

Tuberculosis.

New Cases and Mortality during 1925.

Age Periods	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Pulmonary M.	Pulmonary F.	Non-Pulmonary M.	Non-Pulmonary F.	Pulmonary M.	Pulmonary F.	Non-Pulmonary M.	Non-Pulmonary F.
0								
1								
5								
10			1					
15			1				1	
20		1						
25	2				1			
35	1	1			1			
45								
60								
65 and upwards		1						
	3	3	2	0	2	0	1	0

Reports of Public Analysts upon samples of water from wells in Eccleshall referred to in the preceding report of the Medical Officer of Health.

1st sample.—This water shows much sewage or animal pollution and, in our opinion, is unfit for drinking.

2nd.—This water gives evidence of sewage and organic contamination and, in our opinion, is unsuitable for drinking.

3rd.—This water gives evidence of sewage or animal pollution and, in our opinion, is unsuitable for drinking.

4th.—This water gives evidence of sewage or animal pollution and, in our opinion, is unsuitable for drinking.

5th.—This water is not very bad, but, in our opinion, is unsafe for drinking.

Believe me,

STONE,

Yours faithfully,

8th May, 1926.

J. F. FERNIE, M.O.H.